GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
CULTURE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2752
ANSWERED ON:11.08.2005
SHIVA TEMPLE AT AYRANIKUNNU
Pallani Shamy Shri K.C .

Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Archaeological Survey of India has recently found remains of an old Shiva Temple at Ayranikunnu village near Pandalam in Kerala;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government for preserving the site and remains of the ancient temple?

Answer

MINISTER FOR INFORMATION & BROADCASTING AND CULTURE (SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY)

(a) & (b) No, Sir. The Archaeological Survey of India has not found any old Siva Temple in Kerala recently. However, the Department of Archaeology, Govt. of Kerala, has recently brought to light a chance discovery of relics of an old Siva temple at Ayranikkunnu near Pandalam in District Pathanamthitta of Kerala. The remains seem to be part of a circular Siva temple, ascribable to a date from circa 12th to 14th century A.D. A Sivalinga was also noticed at the site. The temple, sharing common features known in the region, had its basement and balustrade dislocated. It appears that the temple was destroyed in some natural calamity.

(c) The Department of Archaeology, Govt. of Kerala, has undertaken detailed study and documentation of the temple remains.